MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the

Report of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

for the year

1965

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(May 1965 - May 1966)

Chairman Mr. R.C. Smith.

Vice-Chairman Mr. H.F.A. Engleheart, M.A.

Mr. A.W. Allen.
Mr. P.S. Ardley.
Mr. B.A. Blaker.
Mr. G.O. Chamberlin.
Lt. Col. R. Darley, M.C.
Miss. B.E.H. Finch.
Mr. F.A. Herbert.
Mr. F.C. Hodgson.
Mr. G.J.C. Ince.
Mr. J.P. Ince.
Mrs. E.E. Marshall.
Mrs. L.G.M. Seabrook.
Mrs. F. Sowell.
Commander F.L. Whitehouse, O.B.E.,J.P.,R.N.
Mrs. E.L. York.

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Commander F.L. Whitehouse is the Chairman of the Melford Rural District Council.

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SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

Area of the District	47,270 acres.
Rateable Value.	£408,542. (£346,930)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£1,620. 2s. 2d. (£1,396. 8s. 8d)
Number of inhabited houses.	5,560 (5,313)
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	14,900 (14,450)

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	273 (237)	135 (126)	138 (111)
Illegitimate.	10 (14)	8 (4)	2 (10)
Total	283 (251)	143 (130)	140 (121)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor = 1.11)	20.9	(19.2)
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	18.0	(18.4)
Illegitimate birth rate.	3.5%	(5.5%)

Still Births

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	3 (5)	- (-)	3 (5)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total	3 (5)	- (-)	3 (5)

Total Live and Still Births

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	276 (242)	135 (126)	141 (116)
Illegitimate.	10 (14)	8 (4)	2 (10)
Total	286 (256)	143 (130)	143 (126)

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	10.4	(19.5)
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births (England and Wales)	15.7	(16.3)

Deaths

Total	Male	Female
176 (173)	100 (87)	76 (86)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor = 0.86)	11.8	(10.3)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	11.5	(11.3)

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil	(Nil)
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	

Infant Mortality Number of deaths of infants under one year of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	6 (1)	3 (1)	3 (-)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total	6 (1)	3 (1)	3 (-)

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21.2	(3.9)
(b) Infant mortality rate, England and Wales.	19.0	(20.0)

Neo-natal Mortality. Number of deaths of infants under four weeks of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	6 (1)	3 (1)	3 (-)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total	6 (1)	3 (1)	3 (-)

Early Neo-natal Mortality. Number of infants under one week of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.	6 (1)	3 (1)	3 (-)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total	6 (1)	3 (1)	3 (-)

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined, per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 31.4 (23.4)

The above infant mortality statistics relate to the death of six infants and 3 stillborn infants, as follows:-

Sex	Age	Causes of death
F.	4 minutes.	Asphyxia (cord round neck)
M.	30 minutes.	Prematurity
F.	12 hours.	Congenital hydrocephalus and meningomyelocoele.
M.	21 hours.	Respiratory distress syndrome, hyaline membrane disease (prematurity)
F.	1 day.	Hyaline membrane disease (prematurity)
M.	1 day.	Congenital atalectasis (prematurity)
F.	31 weeks gestation	Anencephalic, exomphalos
F.	32 " "	Macerated foetus (Cause unknown)
F.	37 " "	" " " "

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's Figures)

	Total	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES.	176 (173)	100 (87)	76 (86)
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Tuberculosis, other.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Syphilitic disease.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Diptheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
Meningococcal infections.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Acute Poliomyelitis.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Measles.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Other infective & parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Malignant Neoplasms - stomach	5 (6)	1 (4)	4 (2)
Malignant neoplasms - lung, bronchus.	6 (5)	5 (4)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasms - breast.	3 (4)	- (-)	3 (4)
Malignant neoplasms. - uterus.	1 (1)		1 (1)
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	25 (17)	15 (8)	10 (9)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
Diabetes.	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)

CAUSES OF DEATH (cont'd)

	Total	Male	Female
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24 (34)	8 (15)	16 (19)
Coronary disease - angina.	33 (32)	19 (17)	14 (15)
Hypertension with heart disease.	4 (1)	3 (1)	1 (-)
Other heart diseases.	18 (17)	9 (8)	9 (9)
Other circulatory diseases.	8 (15)	7 (8)	1 (7)
Influenza.	4 (1)	3 (1)	1 (-)
Pneumonia.	11 (6)	8 (1)	3 (5)
Bronchitis.	7 (9)	5 (8)	2 (1)
Other diseases of the respiratory system.	1 (2)	1 (1)	- (1)
Ulcer of stomach & Duodenum	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
Gastritis, Enteritis & diarrhoea.	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)
Nephritis & Nephrosis.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Hyperplasis of prostate.	1 (-)	1 (-)	
Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	- (-)		- (-)
Congenital malformations.	2 (3)	1 (2)	1 (1)
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	14 (12)	7 (4)	7 (8)
Motor Vehicle accidents.	2 (2)	1 (-)	1 (2)
All other accidents	3 (1)	3 (1)	- (-)
Suicide.	1 (1)	1 (1)	- (-)
Homicide & operations of war.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)

Deaths from Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis but excluding other respiratory infections) Nil (0.5%)

Total	Male	Female
- (1)	- (1)	- (-)

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all types) 22.7% (19.0%)

Total	Male	Female
40 (33)	21 (16)	19 (17)

Deaths from Leukaemia, Aleukaemia. 0.5% (0.5%)

Total	Male	Female
1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)

Deaths from Chest Infections & Respiratory Diseases (all types except neoplasms) 13.0%. (10.4%)

Total	Male	Female
23 (18)	17 (11)	6 (7)

Deaths from Heart & Circulatory Diseases (including strokes) 43.7% (57.1%)

Total	Male	Female
87 (99)	46 (49)	41 (50)

Deaths from Accident, Violence & Suicide 3.4% (2.8%)

Total	Male	Female
6 (5)	5 (3)	1 (2)

SECTION B

1. Public Health Staff

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.
Part-time Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts.

Senior Public Health Inspector, whole-time.
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector, whole-time.
I.C. Hazell, A.I.A.S., Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole-time.
J.H. Easdown, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(resigned 13th June, 1965).

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole-time.
B.N. Heaton, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(from 1st September, 1965).

Sewage Works Manager, whole-time.
E.A.S. Tulk, A.M., Inst. W.P.C., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Building Inspector, whole-time.
P.D. Cutmore, Mun. B.I.

2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council is responsible for the ambulance service.

3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provides four Child Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Great Cornard, Glemsford, and Nayland.

5. Chiropody Services for elderly persons are arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the West Suffolk Old People's Welfare Association. A domicillary service is available for those unable to reach a clinic.

6. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services, Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich, under its Medical Director Dr. J.M.S. Dixon, has provided bacteriological reports on water samples and other materials and advised on epidemiological matters.

Chemical analyses of water samples are performed by the Council's analysts at the Analytical Laboratory, Haywoods Heath, Sussex.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No proceedings were taken under this section during the year.

SECTION C

REPORT OF MR. J.A.E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

General

Mr. E.A.S.Tulk beginning his duties as Sewage Works Manager in April was faced with two immediate problems, sludge disposal and tidying up the various sites. The purchase by the Council of a secondhand tractor, a dumper and an elevator enabled large quantities of sludge to be removed from the Works at Bures, Great Cornard, Nayland and Long Melford, but insufficient disposal points left the future very uncertain. The provision of grass-cutting equipment used jointly with the Housing Department made possible a transformation in the appearance of the sites.

Acton

This Works is now reduced to a pumping station lifting the sewage to Long Melford. There is some trouble here at times of heavy rain due to infiltration.

Bures

This site has been tidied up, odd heaps of old sludge removed, and all sludge beds relaid. One sprinkler column has been replaced.

Having regard to the loading on the Works the effluent has been reasonably good.

Great Cornard

Here again considerable efforts have been made to tidy up the site by grass-cutting and removal of old sludge deposits. Approximately 240 tons of sludge were taken away before the farmer concerned intimated that he could take no more for the time being, and stock piling on the Works was resumed.

On a number of occasions samples of effluent proved to be somewhat above the prescribed limits but the reasons for this have not always been obvious.

Glemsford

This Works has been tidied up and has functioned satisfactorily.

Long Melford

Sludge problems here remain acute. Despite attempts, using the new equipment, to move it, old sludge piled within the fenced area has proved too greasy to handle. Newly arising sludge is being stock-piled on the adjoining field.

Long Melford contd.

As previously reported the brickwork of the two filters is very cracked and frost damaged.

Effluent samples from this Works have remained satisfactory.

Nayland

This Works has continued to produce a consistently good effluent.

Work on this site has been confined to grass-cutting and general tidying up.

Great Waldingfield

The Council is aware of the poor structural condition of this Works and that a scheme of reconstruction will be commenced this year.

Chilton.

A small length of sewer discharging into the Sudbury sewers and serving a limited number of properties was ready for use in October.

The following table shows the approximate number of properties connected to sewers at the end of the year.

PARISHES	New Connections	No. of properties on line of sewer	Number connected	%
Nayland	28	306	264	86%
Stoke-by-Nayland	1	203	153	74%
Long Melford	47	951	768	80%
Acton	1	141	136	96%
Great Waldingfield	45	244	214	87%
Little Waldingfield	43	88	70	79%
Great Cornard (to Sudbury Sewer)	4	105	93)	91%
Great Cornard (to Cornard Sewer)	164	1069	981)	
Little Cornard	-	17	15	88%
Chilton (to Sudbury Sewer)	11	22	16	73%
Glemsford	52	557	* 424	76%
Hartest	12	119	54	45%
Stanstead	19	91	62	68%
Boxted	4	26	17	65%
Bures St. Mary	3	184	171	93%
TOTALS:	434	4123	3438	83%

* Includes 94 with only sink connections, no W.C.

REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEMES

The only difficulties experienced with Refuse Collection during 1965 were related to the spread of new development in such areas as Great Cornard, Long Melford and Nayland.

A paper sack refuse collection scheme has been chosen as the solution for the difficulties of collecting from court-type layouts involving long carries from house to vehicle.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The table below shows how this service was required in the various parishes and gives numbers of emptyings carried out. It will be noted that Lawshall now takes the lead in its demand for this service, and, with its considerable number of post-war houses, many built on sites unsuitable for septic tanks with soakaway drainage, it is likely to retain this lead until the main sewers are constructed and functioning. This constitutes a rather unhappy outlook for some residents of the parish of Lawshall.

Acton	16
Assington	17
Alpheton	13
Boxted	7
Bures	16
Chilton	15
Great Cornard	12
Little Cornard	26
Glemsford	17
Hartest	12
Lawshall	46
Leavenheath	40
Long Melford	13
Nayland-with-Wissington	6
Newton	45
Shimpling	13
Somerton	4
Stanstead	1
Stoke-by-Nayland	35
Great Waldingfield	13
Little Waldingfield	16
	383

14 privy emptyings were carried out.

NIGHT SOIL EMPTYING CONTRACT

This scheme continued to be operated by a private contractor. At the end of 1965 approximately 258 properties were being serviced, including 67 Council houses.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are three retail butchers' slaughterhouses and one wholesale butcher's slaughterhouse operating in the District.

		CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP LAMBS	PIGS
Total slaughtered		3047	24	1396	5025
Total inspected.		3047	24	1396	5025
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	Whole carcase condemned	6	4	4	114
	Number of carcases part of which was condemned.	480	3	22	931
	% affected	15.95%	29.17%	1.86%	27.04%
Tuberculosis only	Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
	Number of carcases part of which was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	151
	% affected	0.07%	Nil	Nil	3.02%
Cysticercosis only	Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Number of carcases part of which was condemned	45	Nil	Nil	Nil
	% affected	1.48%	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

The following were condemned:

1-3 lb. tin	Cooked ham	70 lbs.	Beef suet
1-4 lb.12 oz.	Chicken	170 lbs.	Beef
36 lbs.	Pigs liver	50 lbs.	Loin of beef
10 lbs.	Lamb chops	98 lbs.	New Zealand Lamb (3 carcases)
90 lbs.	New Zealand lamb.	7 -6 lb. 8oz cans	Pineapple rings.
31 lbs.	Chuck steak	2 -6 lb.12oz. cans	Pineapple pieces.
18 lbs.	Shin beef	2 -6 lb.12oz. cans	Bartlett Pears (halves)
5 lbs.	Topside beef		

GENERAL DUTIES

Below is an analysis of visits made by my Deputy, the Additional Inspector and myself. It will be seen that a very large proportion of our time is taken up by meat inspection.

Slaughterhouses	870
Sewage Disposal Works and Schemes	232
Petroleum Acts	142
Nuisance Investigations	136
Planning & Byelaws	92
Food Hygiene	75
Improvement Grants	70
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	62
Drainage (general)	60
Housing Acts	41
G.L.C. Development	38
Road Naming & Numbering	17
Refuse Collection	15
Sewer Connections	10
Caravans	4
Water Supply	3
Miscellaneous	217
Total:	2,084

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

	Total number of premises	Number fitted to comply with Reg.16.	Total number where Reg.19 applies.	Number fitted to comply with Reg.19
Grocer & Greengrocer	57	53	18	17
Bakehouses	6	5	6	6
Butchers	11	9	11	9
Cafes	4	4	4	4
Hotels & Restaurants	3	2	3	3
Public Houses & Off Licence Premises	47	1 (only 1 inspection made)	47	1 (only 1 inspection made)
Sweet shops	2	2	-	-
Food Factory and Wholesale Premises	2.	2	2	2
School Kitchen	1	1	1	1
Fish & Chip Shop	1	1	1	1
Factory Canteens	2	2	2	2
Clubs	2	2	2	2
Total:	138	84	97	48

15 contraventions were found and 48 abated. The majority of the latter were of course contraventions found during the previous year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

246 contraventions were found.

HOUSING

251 private dwellings were completed during the year, a figure slightly less than for the previous year.

Those completed were distributed as follows:

Great Cornard	100
Long Melford	42
Nayland	25
Gt. Waldingfield	24
Lt. Waldingfield	15
Leavenheath	12
Glemsford	11
Bures	5
Acton	4
Alpheton	3
Lawshall	3
Assington	2
Little Cornard	2
Newton	1
Shimpling	1
Stanstead	1

Clibbon House, at Great Cornard, providing 17 units of accommodation, was completed by the Council.

G.L.C. development at Great Cornard was commenced and twenty-four houses had been handed over by the end of the year.

595 proposals under the Town and Country Planning Act and/or the Council's Building Byelaws were received and dealt with.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

58 dwellings were improved with the aid of Standard Grants, 41 of these being owner-occupied. The total amount paid out in grants was £11,207, an average of £193 per house.

£8,683 was paid out for the improvement of 27 dwellings with the aid of Discretionary Grants, an average of £321 per property. 17 of the dwellings improved were occupied by tenants.

DEMOLITION ORDERS

Four were made during the year.

SECTION D

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

	Total	Male	Female
Scarlet Fever.	30 (9)	16 (4)	14 (5)
Whooping Cough	17 (34)	7 (19)	10 (15)
Measles.	133(187)	64(114)	69 (73)
Meningococcal infection.	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)
Acute Pneumonia.	12 (14)	6 (5)	6 (9)
Erysipelas.	- (2)	- (1)	- (1)
Puerpural Pyrexia.	- (1)		- (1)
Infective Hepatitis.	2 (3)	1 (3)	1 (-)
Food poisoning.	- (2)	- (1)	- (1)
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	3 (4)	2 (2)	1 (2)
Tuberculosis, other.	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis in 1965.

SECTION E

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

I - Inspections for the purposes of Provisions as to Health (Including inspections made by Public Health Inspector.)

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.	58	40	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-worker's premises)	-	48	-	-
Total	59	88	-	-

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found - Nil

III. Part V111 - OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work.	Number
Making Wearing Apparel etc.	11